(c) the State Government's reaction in this regard and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to eradicate this social evil;

(d) whether Government have received any relevant programme from the State Governments in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, child labour is likely to be eradicated from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The then Union Labour Minister *vide* d.o. letter dated 19.02.2000 had written to the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs for taking decisive and convergent action to release children from work and to secure their total rehabilitation—physical, economic and psychological by pooling resources from a variety of sources and integrating them imaginatively and skillfully.

(c) Under the National Policy for elimination of child labour, all State Governments have committed themselves to eliminate all forms of child labour and their rehabilitation.

(d) The Government has already been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn form work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Volunatry Organisations. Under the scheme of NCLP, special schools have been set up in the child labour endemic districts with the provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health-care etc. So far, 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic States for coverage of 2.11 lakh children, on the recommendation of the State Government.

(e) The Government would be making attempts to eliminate child labour from hazardous occuptations by the end of the Tenth Plan and progressively move towards elimination of child labour in all its forms in the coming years.

Funds for child labour

2660. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a 13-year old Supreme Court's directive for setting up a fund for the children working in hazardous conditions, is

yet to be implemented and they continue to lose their lives and limbs while seeking out livelihood by making matches, crackers etc.; and

(b) if so, why this indifferent attitude to future citizens of India especially when every child is entitled to safeguards and Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 10th December, 1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465/1986 gave certain directions on the issue of elimination of child labour including setting up of a Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund. These directions have been conveyed to the State/UT Governments for compliance. As per the information available, various States/UTs have constituted the Fund.

(b) Does not arise.

Unemployment problem in Assam

2661. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for solving unemployment problem in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the opportunities created for educated unemployed youth through the establishment of various industries in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Creation of 50 million employment opportunities is targeted during the Tenth Plan Period both in the normal growth process and through special employment generation programmes in the Country. These will also help unemployed youth in the State of Assam both educated as well as uneducated.